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NKCR 6 I ONG TRADITION

A travelling tour of respect

Pelham firefighters, service club members, politicians, cadets, residents and members of Royal Canadian Legion Talbot Trail branch 613 gathered for Remembrance Day services across the community on Sunday. They assembled to remember the com-

mitment and sacrifice made by those who loved Canada

Peace Park behind Pelham town hall was the site of the last of the ceremonies for the day, which started at 9 a.m. at Lions Park in Fenwick and then continued at the cenotaph in Ridgeville, and Fonthill Baptist Church

see REMEMBRANCE DAY | page 2





A trumpeter plays Last Post during Remembrance Day ceremonies at Peace Park in Pelham on Sunday. It was one of four ceremonies put on in the community by Royal Canadian Legion Talbot Trail branch 613.



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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Honouring their sacrifice

Speaking at the final ceremony was Tim Hudak. leader of the provincial Conservatives, who said he, like the 30 or so others who came out, was there to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice and did

not return from war. "We're here to honour their sacrifice and Augustyn spoke of the brave accomplishments." Hudak spoke of a battle

in the First World War that defined the country's soldiers. That hattle was at Amiens in France, Hudak said, and it was the first rout of the Germans.

of the war as the Canadians sent them on the run and took on a quarter of the German force. It broke the Germans'

fighting spirit." Hudak said there's nothing more feared to the enemy. or that gives succour to the oppressed, than the sight of a Canadian soldier

Pelham Mayor Dave men and women who have served their country and said the ceremonies were to honour their commitment and devotion to Canada, and their courage as well.

He said the names of Pelham residents who served. and those who died, in conflicts around the world are engraved on cenotaphs across

the community. "May their names and may their memories be engraved in our minds and our hearts. Let us be thankful for their service and sacrifice," the

mayor said On Sunday, Nov. 11, Branch 613 will hold Remembrance Day services in Pelham Veterans Park, outside the Hwy. 20 legion hall in Fonthill. Ceremonies begin at 10:45 a.m. and are followed by a light lunch.

dave.iohnson@sunmedia.ca



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

About 30 people gathered for Remembrance Day ceremonies at Peace Park in Pelham on Sunday. It was one of four ceremonies put on by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 Talbot Trail



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo Two cadets stand watch at the cenotaph during Remembrance Day ceremonies at Peace Park in

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■ VOLUNTEERS: Peer Awards handed out to 20

Town honours people who make it happen

Pelham NEWS Staff

The town saluted the volunteers who bring the community a host of events and services

The town would not have Canada Day, Summerfest, Santa Claus Parade, Pelham Cares and many sports, culture and community services, said

Mayor Dave Augustyn. "You put vision into action." he told the dining room at Lookout Point Country Club crowded with volunteers for the town's volunteer and com-

munity corporate recognition ceremony. Peer Awards were handed

out to 20 volunteers selected by members of their organizations for outstanding contributions. Meridian Credit Union received the Pelham Community Corporate award

last wook The credit union's Pelham branch topped a list of 41 town businesses praised by volunteer groups for their support of community projects

Augustyn said Meridian stood out for its years of assisting the community with sponsorship of the Fonthill Bandshell concerts, the Rankin Cancer Run, and Pelham Cares

fundraisers It encourages volunteer efforts of its staff members, said

Meridian branch manager John Wink praised his staff for volunteer work

He was fortunate to work for a company that encourages community sponsorship, he said. He got his staff involved by

"leading by example" through his own community volunteer offorte he said

Wink said he was inspired by the man who hired him 29 years who stressed the need to

give back to the community. Each peer award winner received a custom designed glass Inukshuk trophy made in Pelham

speaker and Pelham resident set the tone for the night with a 40-minute presentation.

He urged the volunteers to continue to say "no" to the ordinary

They should continue to choose to become nothing less than "extraordinary" at who

they are and what they do. He admitted that much of what he has said in his 25 years of motivational speaking is "common sense:

However, "common sense remains uncommon" because few people put it into practice throughout their lives. He listed power principles

and power practices. Many people know things they should do but they don't do something with it, he said "Perception in life is

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everything.



Peer awards to volunteers selected by their community organizations were given to 20 volunteers Tuesday during the 2012 Town of Pelham Volunteer and Community Corporate Recognition Ceremony. Among winners are, front from left, Kimberly Zawaly, Bev Yungblut, Colleen McCarthy, Eleanor Cumming, Louise Stayzer, Sharon Margeson, Tove Bowman; back, Els Swart, Ian MacLeod, Sheryl Pitre, Bruce Bissell, Brian Buchanan, John Wink, Lance Wiebe, Tim Vanderweide, Andrea Keus, Ashley Moore,

PEER AWARD WINNERS

- Bob Fish Pelham Active Transportation Committee ■ Bruce Bissell - Fenwick Lions Club
- Tove Bowman Rotary Club of Fontbill
- Brian Buchanan -Fonthill Lions Club
- Eleanor Cumming -Fenwick Lioness Club
- Andrea Keus Pelham Soccer Club
- Mary Lamb Pelham Heritage Committee
- Yann Marais Pelham Tennis Association
- Sharon Margeson -Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613
- Colleen McCarthy -Pelham Cares
- Ian MacLeod 613 Lincoln and Welland Regiment Army Cadets

- Ashley Moore Niagara Centre Figure Skating
- Shervl Pitre Pelham Communities in Bloom
- Dave Schulz Pelham Community Police Committee
- Louise Stayzer Fonthill Lioness Club
- Els Swart Pelham Art
- Festival ■ Tim Vanderweide
- Fonthill Volunteer Firefighters Association ■ Lance Wiebe - Canada
- Day Committee ■ Bev Yungblut - Pelham
- Farmers Market ■ Kimberley Zawaly - Girl Guides 1st North Pelham



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Mayor Dave Augustyn presents Meridian Credit Union branch manager John Wink with the Community Corporate Award recognizing a significant contribution of a business to the town. Meridian received the award during the 2012 Town of Pelham Volunteer and Community Corporate Recognition Ceremony Tuesday at Lookout Point Country Club Tuesday.

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Wayne Campbell, coros SUN MEDIA



Lots of opportunities for volunteers

Volunteer appreciation nights, such as the one held last week by the Town of Pelham, are impressive. When you looked around the room, you realize two

Many people are committed volunteers.

However, there are too few of them for all that needs The town's volunteer appreciation night filled the room

at Lookout Point Country Club with a few hundred people. They represented dozens of sports groups, social agencies, service clubs, cultural groups and town advisory hodies They were the people who organized the Santa Claus

Parade, Canada Day celebration, Thursday night concerts, Pelham Farmers Market, Summerfest, Biketoberfest, Pelham Art Festival, Community Food Drive, and the

Pelham Home and Leisure Show. They help young people play soccer, hockey, baseball,

basketball and other sports. They keep organizations like Pelham Cares as well as various church and services groups rolling along to serve

the needs of many And they provide the town with well-informed advice about walking and cycling, heritage and the desires of

young people. Mayor Dave Augustyn and the town staff handed out 20 peer awards. The winners were picked by their

organizations. The town presented an award to a business, in this case Meridian Credit Union, It was nominated by volunteer

organizations across the town for its community spirit. The contributions and the contributors highlighted were

Yet when you start counting on your hands and toes you realize how few there are Many groups rely on a dozen or so people. Some are

very good at drawing short-term volunteers for big events such as the food drive. Others have networks to tap into. For some events, town staff provide administrative

energy, skills and experience. Good organization keeps things going However, no one complains about having too many

volunteers In other words, there are opportunities for everyone to

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contribute.

Budget building at Niagara Region

he long and complicated budget building process is almost complete at the Region of Niagara, The process has become far more structured than it was when I was elected nine years ago. Back then we would pile thick binders on the table and review

department budgets line by line in what some would characterize as micromanagement style. Then we asked staff to prepare three budget scenarios: +3%, 0% and -3%. Again, this was an

exhausting process with much of the work discarded. Several years ago we decided to begin our process with

guidelines based upon taxpayers affordability. Departments, agencies, boards and commissions were directed to prepare budgets based upon this guidance. Over the last six years we have met or exceeded this guidance so that the average annual regional tax increase has been held to

0.6%, well below the cost of living annual increases, Albeit, this was also during a period of provincial uploading of services so this additional provincial funding assisted us in budget preparation. However, it should be noted that



our annual tax increases in Niagara have been far less than the other five regions in Ontario.

We still begin with taxpayer affordability as the key driver and to that we add an increase for the new assessment coming in from new houses, businesses and industry in Niagara, Stress that this is "new" assessment not a change in your current household assessment as calculated by

MPAC.

The second driver for the budget building process is sustainability. That is to say that we can't use one-time dollars, say from a government uploading, to prepare a multi-year budget as sustainable.

The final driver for budget development is multi-vear planning. Until this year the region of Niagara has had an infrastructure deficit. That is the building, repair and replacement of our infrastructure would cost far more than our annual budget and

This infrastructure deficit has been reduced by the large capital projects funded by the provincial and federal government as stimulus to help us through the recession, Burgovne Bridge replacement is one such project

and I am sure that everyone is aware of the large number of roads projects underway the last few years in Niagara. The most recent big ticket item to be approved is the replacement of the sewer lagoons in Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Comorate Services Department reviewed the way in which costs have been allocated among departments and has proposed a more streamlined process with the revenues from this change being directed to achieving a balanced 10 year capital budget.

with modern sewage facilities.

The budget process began on June 7 with council approving this year's budget guidance. There are two aspects to the budget; funds coming from rate driven activities and funds coming from levy (tax) driven activities Within those two areas, the

budgets are separated along two categories: operating budgets and

capital budgets. Budget meeting: are usually held on a Thursday

and we meet as a total council in Committee-of-the-Whole. Last Thursday we met all day starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing after 6:00 n.m. For departments of Niagara Region some budgets achieved guidance or less and some could not meet the guidance limits but collectively they do meet the guidance set by council. Agencies, Boards and Commissions will present their budgets this Thursday. At this time the proposed Niagara Regional Police Services

budget appears to push the entire regional budget 0.3% above guidance. Under law Council may accept or reject that budget but cannot direct where budget cuts can be made. If rejected, the NRPS Board may appeal to a provincial tribunal. Alternatively council may accept their budget and either seek further cuts in other budgets to achieve guidance or raise taxes to achieve the funds that exceed the original guidance.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham brian.baty@niagararegion.ca

New patient program for rare diseases

anadians take great nide in our physicians nurses, technicians, and medical

scientists. Part of that pride is earned from our treatment of the most vulnerable among us. Our government is therefore pleased to announce a new program specifically designed for patients

with rare diseases. Our pharmaceutical companies are important

expensive process.

producers and employers, accounting for 27,000 direct employees, and 35,000 indirect Jobs in 2011. Companies like Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, and Pfizer, just to name the biggest three in 2011, produce medications which benefit innumerable patients. However researching and developing these drugs is a long and highly

In 2010, the total cost of research and development of drugs in Canada was \$1.18 Billion, Average research and development spending per new brand name drug over a 12-13 year development process was USS605 Million for chemicalpharma products, and US\$559 Million for bio-pharma products Big name drugs like Lipitor, Plavix, and Oxycontin generate much of the revenue for their respective



allows the companies to research additional drugs. However, not all drugs make it to market, and those that fail still cost mone to research. The cost of failed attempts at new products boosts. the R&D costs of the successful ones up to US\$900 per chemicalpharma product and US\$1.24 Billion per bio-pharma product. This is a staggering amount of money

Developers hope to recoup the costs of research and development by selling enough quantity of drugs at a competitive price. This is simple enough to do when selling drugs for widespread conditions like heart disease, but what happens for extremely rare conditions? If there are only 500 people in North America who suffer from a particular illness, a company could never sell them \$900 Billion worth of pills. Also, if there are only 500 patients, there are not enough to participate in the trials needed to develop the

drug. There is not much motive for making so called "Orphan Drugs" if there is little chance of breaking even on them.

It is estimated that 1 in 12 Canadians suffer from a rare disease, which is defined as a life threatening, seriously debilitating, or serious chronic condition affecting 1 in 2000 people or fewer. There are currently over 7000 known rare diseases

That brings us to Health Canada Minister Aglukkaq's announcement of a new approach for the authorization of drugs for rare conditions, and the launch of a web portal to help patients find appropriate information and services. Authorization for new products is a major component of pharmaceutical development.

and a simplification or shortening of the process should reduce development costs Our Government is designing a new regulatory framework specifically tailored to approve drugs for small populations Part of the new approach is international information sharing and collaboration between the participating countries.

Speaking of international information sharing, the prohibitive cost of developing drugs is also why I support Bill C-398, which will amend the Patent Act to make it easier to manufacture and export drugs to Third World countries to tackle medical crises like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. These are by no means rare diseases. and I believe that Canada can afford to be charitable with our medical knowledge to help those least able to afford the cost of developing their own treatments

Returning to rare diseases, the new Orphanet-Canada web portal will give Canadians with rare conditions access to high quality information on rare diseases, and a directory of specialized services. Orphanet is available online at: http://www.orpha.net/ national/CA-EN/index/ homepage/

The Orphanet project currently has over 35 member countries, and is coordinated and run out of France. Canada takes great pride in being the first country from the Americas to join.

For more information about the pharmaceutical industry in Canada, visit the Industry Canada: Life Sciences webpage at: http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ lsg-pdsv.nsf/eng/h_hn01703.html

Dean Allison is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Niagara West Glanhrook

New growth needed to sustain Pelham community

Twin pad community centre closer

I read with considerable discouragement the letter to the editor (Oct. 25) entitled 'Twin Pad Community Centre Closer' Your narrative which seems to very satirically relate your feelings about the possible need for new recreational facility is of course exceptionally well supported by census data and goes a long way to support ongoing arguments against such a

development. Congratulations as well for mistakenly capturing my imagination! Forgive

general mocking of the debate and if I may, I would offer some feedback from my own perspective for

your consideration. For too many years recently in Pelbam, the debate has been about the needs of our senior community members compared to the needs of youth bence the statistical population arguments.

Why is it that a community cannot reasonably consider and accommodate both instead of being pitted against each other? Couldn't an updated twin arena also support facilities that seniors could benactivities or exercise? Could it actually simply be a community centre instead of a "Twin Pad"?

It is a basic organic fact that without new growth things wither and die. The median age in Pelham rose between 2006-2011 by 3.7 years to an average of 47.5 years. This increase was 270% greater than the Ontario average and 340% greater than the Canadian average.

Our community seems to be growing older than any other in Ontario and certainly on average nationally as well. Are we on a trajectory to wither and die as

no facilities and resources like a functional twin pad arena to support a younger population, we simply will

not attract them. Assuming that this will limit population growth, over time a diminishing tax base will provide increasing challenges to sustain existing infrastructure, programs and services in Pelham. We need to attract young families with children in order to continue to grow and develop what I believe is a vibrant and caring community.

Mike Taylor Fonthill

Age-friendly community forum Friday

For Pelham News

WELLAND - The Niagara Age-Friendly Community Initiative will host a public forum in Welland on Friday,

The public is invited to learn more about local agefriendly community initiatives at a special forum.

Mary Lou Tanner, president of Ontario Professional Planners Institute, will be the keynote speaker.

Presenters during the day include Mary Wiley, executive director of Niagara Research and Planning Council, Doug Rapelje and Richard Morwald

of the Welland Age-Friendly Local Action Committee. They will showcasing age-friendly initiatives in

Panelists will include Mayor Dave Augustyn. Rhonda Barron of Bridges Community Health Care Centre, Port Colborne city councillor Angle Desmarais, and Margaret Maynard a

consultant with the Literacy Council of Niagara West. The Niagara Age-Friendly Community Initiative will host the public forum to share information about local agefriendly initiatives, hear from local champions, and discuss

the next steps for promoting an age- friendly Niagara. The form will be held at the Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St. from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Members of the public are asked to reserve a seat by contacting Nicky Bertola at nicky. bertoia@niagararegion.ca.



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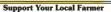
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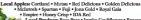
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Bottled trash to become school



Television personality Tanya Memme presents \$5,000 to her father, Frank Memme, left, and Ben Obdevn with Niagara-based Wells of Hope. Tanya Memme, who is from Wainfleet, stars on the A&E program Sell This House: Extreme. The donation will be used by Wells of Hope to help build wells, houses and schools in remote Guatemalan villages.

PelhamNEWS Staff

Wells of Hope has dipped into family connections for its latest project to assist remote mountain villages in

Guatemala. The Niagara-based charity is raising money for school construction that will concentrate on using plastic bottles

stuffed with garbage. Tanva Memme, who stars on the A&E television show Sell This House: Extreme, presented \$5,000 to her father, Wells of Hope director Frank Memme,

to build schools and homes in villages served by Wells of Hope. She was in Niagara this week for a visit from her current home in Los

Angeles. The Wainfleet native has volunteered

with Wells of Hope in Guatemala. The group's main mission is digging

wells to bring water to scattered villages. Most village residents rely on often polluted runoff water in streams. Wells of Hope has expanded its

work with villagers to improve lifestyle conditions, including to build homes, schools, bridges and a medical centre. "It's important to involve the resi-

dents," said Frank Memme, adding it gives them a sense of ownership and allows volunteers to teach construction skills as well as learn a few themselves,

"They are very resourceful," the Niagara builder said about the ability of mountain villagers to work with what is

Wells of Hope's latest project will help

address a trash problem. To build a three-room school house with a cement framework, plastic bottles stuffed with trash will form

walls that will then be stuccoed over, explained director Ben Obdevn. In Guatemala, villagers must build their own schools before the govern-

ment supplies teachers, he said. Wells of Hope is looking for donations to help finance its projects.

Earlier this year it it built a show house in Fenwick with the help of donations of materials and labour from the Niagara construction industry. It is now for sale, with proceeds to be used to pay for a well-drilling rig.

For the holiday season, Wells of Hope is selling glass beaded jewelry and necklaces, made by Guatemalan villagers as a direct fundraiser.

It is partnering with the American charity Miracles in Action for some of its projects.

For more information about the bead jewelry fundraiser, call Obdeyn at 905-892-4721, or visit www.wellsofhope.

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WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo Rhea Obdevn holds a Mayan "worry doll" and wears a glass bead necklace. The

items plus key chain holders were made by Guatemalan villagers served by Niagara charity Wells of Hope. The sale items raise funds for Wells of Hope projects that include digging water wells and building schools in poor mountain villages. Contact Obdevn at 905-892-4721.

Pelham council tries creative problem solving

WAYNE CAMPBELL PelhamNEWS Staff

Town council applied a new approach to an old issue when it tackled a site alteration bylaw Monday. Reviewing comments on a draft

bylaw during a committee of the whole meeting, it applied a creative problem solving process.

Mayor Dave Augustyn acted as a facilitator taking suggestions from councillors and filling out paper sheets that were posted on the council chambers

They did it before audience of about 70 people. The crowd overflowed from

the council chambers while some sat on the floor beside the council table. A proposed site alteration bylaw has been a controversial issue in the town

for more than two years Earlier this year staff prepared a draft bylaw. Council invited comments on it.

For council's committee of the whole meeting more than 50 pages of comments and letters were included in the

Augustyn and Chief Administrative Officer Darren Ottaway explained the problem solving process called Simplexity thinking

It was outlined in educational sessions to councillors on Friday and town staff on Monday by Professor Min Basadur from the Michael G. DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University.

The mayor and councillors listed the pros and cons of a site alteration bylaw such as berms made of questionable construction fill, risks to the environment, interference with farm practices,

and questionable inspections. By placing dots on handwritten charts listing 18 issues, councillors narrowed

them down to a set of specific concerns They included eliminating unwanted berms, avoiding risks of interfering with normal farm practices, inspection and enforcement that respected rights of

property owners, protection of environment particularly water courses, and protecting roads.

The summary of councillors key concerns were turned over to staff.

They will bring recommendations on how to deal with them to council's next policies and priorities committee on Nov. 19.

They may or may not include a site alteration bylaw, said Augustyn. They may be able to deal with the issues without

Augustyn

Ottaway said the final list of items from Monday's meeting will be posted on the town's website: www. pelham.ca Residents are wel-

come to comment on them by "e-mail, snail mail or on the back of a napkin," he said. "We just ask that they identify Ward 3 Coun, John

thomsolves!

John Durley



Darren Ottaway

"We drew our suggestions from what was in those 61 pages

of letters and comments," he said In other business. council saluted two

volunteer firefighters Ralph Smith who was retiring after 42 years with the Fonthill volunteer firefighters and lack lunkin who had 23 years at Thorold's St. Johns fire station and Pelham's Fire Station No. 3.

"These were men who helped to build the Pelham Fire Department we have today," said Fire Chief Bob Lymburner.

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Train derailment class action to go ahead

QMI Agency Niagara

A class action lawsuit against Via Rail Canada on behalf of dozens of passengers involved in a fatal train derailment outside Hamilton in February has been certified by the court

The decision announced Thursday means a multimillion-dollar class action suit can proceed against the company and Canadian National Railway Company. The train was travelling from Niagara Falls to Toronto on Feb. 26 when it left the tracks near Aldershot at 3:30 n.m.. Three crew members were killed and several passengers injured.

Passenger Allison Von Wallis, 19. of St. Catharines, said she joined the class lawsuit after learning the train had allegedly been

"It was four times the speed limit. That's

really ridiculous," she said Thursday. Do you know someone who would like to receive the

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said in March the train entered the crossover from track 2 to track 3 at approximately 107 km/h

The maximum authorized speed at that

spot was 24 km/h The locomotive and five coaches left the

track at that point, with the locomotive striking a building and being destroyed. The lawsuit, filed March 1, is being led by

Sandra Lundy, of Niagara Falls, and a couple Reached at home Thursday, Lundy

declined comment. Shortly after the crash, Toronto lawyer Ted Charney said Lundy was treated for non-life-

threatening injuries after a number of fellow passengers fell on top of her when the train "We are determined to obtain justice for those whose lives were altered by this terrible event," Charney said in a press release

Thursday, issued by the three law firms involved in the suit. "We believe the ruling brings us closer to resolving the matter."

The class action seeks \$10 million in compensation for physical and emotional injury. damage to property and loss of income for approximately 68 passengers.

Charney is from law firm Falconer Charney LLP, which is acting with Sutts, Strosberg LLP in Windsor and Koskie Minsky LLP of

It's not known how many of the passengers on board the train were from Niagara. Von Wallis was returning to McGill University in Montreal in the second coach of the train when it crashed. She said she suffered bruises and scratches and saw a counsellor for anxiety attacks she endured afterward.

ANDREW COLLINS QMI Agency Niagara Three crew members died in this Via Rail train derailment earlier this year just outside Hamilton. A class action lawsuit involving 68 passengers has approval to proceed.

In the same coach was Katharine Yagi, of Fonthill, now 26, who was also heading back to McGill University to study for her PhD in

Yagi, who was not injured in the crash, said she settled with VIA earlier this year when it offered her \$3,000 and first class passes for

She said she felt people who were actually injured should be involved in the lawsuit, and didn't want to seem greedy. And as a student, she said, she needed the money offered. "I do think about it a lot," she said of the

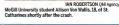
crash, "It comes up in conversations with people I haven't seen in a while.

"I did experience the whole wreck." A Via Rail spokeswoman said the company does not comment on issues before the court.









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Ferwick For information see www gnmre.ca SATURDAY NOV.17

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS Christmas House tour organized by Fonthill United Church, Six homes and the Church beautifully decorated by local designers Tickets are \$18 available at the Church 905-892-6433 and participating decorators. Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop, Forever Flowers. Cox Home Furniture. In The Village, Hometown Treasures The Log Cabin Gift Store, J&J Floral Expressions, and Floral Dimensions. Tour runs from 10

am to3nm ANNUAL BAZAAR by St. Ann's Catholic Women's League, 834 Canboro Road, Ferwick will hold their annual bazaar on Saturday. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stock up on freezer pierogies, fresh baked goods. Christmas table - gift

baskets for sale; silent auction. poinsettias, produce/preserves and delicious lunch. Free coffee and admission, wheelchair accessible. 905-892-6123 Everynne Welcomell

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY BAZAAR 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church 602 Metter Rd. North Pelham. comer of Metler and Cream St. Quilts, woven rugs, baking, aprons, handcrafts, floral decorations and much more. Muffins and coffee

served at 9:30 a.m., lunch from 1 a.m. to 1 p.m. SATURDAY NOV 17

MODEL RAILWAY OPEN HOUSE with the Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers at the Ferwick Central Railroad club house noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 1141 Maple St. in Ferwick For information see www.

PASTA DINNER at the Fonthill Lions Hall, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Regional Rd. 20, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. adults \$10, children \$6. Take out orders. Cash bar available.

SUNDAY NOV 17-18 MODEL RAILWAY OPEN

HOUSE with the Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers at the

Ferwick Central Railroad club house noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 1141 Maple St. in Ferwick For information see www.

SATURDAY, NOV. 24 PROGRESSIVE EUCRE at the

Fonthill Lions Hall Hwy 20 Fonthill 7 p.m. with prizes, light lunch and cash bar \$5 a person.

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

PRESALE TURKEY DRAW with the Fonthill Lions. One ticket gives you 20 draws during Christmas pub night at Fonthill Lions Hall starting 8 p.m. Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5 at Klager's Meats. Semenuk's or Leon at the Seaway Mall

SUNDAY, DEC. 9

CHRISTMAS BY THE FIRE with the Robert Wood Singers with the Wood Kids. A show for the whole family at 2:30 p.m. at Centennial Secondary School, Thorold Rd. in Welland Adults \$15 children (12 and under) \$8. Tickets at Arcuri's Cheese World in Welland, The Log Cabin in Fonthill Games-A-Lot at Seaway Mall, Chiropractic Associates 258 Killaly St. W., Port Colborne. Donations of nonperishable food appreciated.

ONGOING

TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO St Ann's Parish, 834 Canboro Rd. Ferrwick, 7 p.m. Continues every Tuesday to the end of June. Wheelchair accessible. Chance to win \$100, 905-892-6123. ST. ALEXANDER PASTA NIGHT first Thursday of every month at St. Alexander Church, Town Square, Fonthill. Admission: \$9 for adults, \$4 for children age four to 12 and children under three free. All you can eat red and white sauce penne, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, salads and more. Catered by Antipasto's

FONTHILL LIONS PASTA DINNER

every third Saturday at Fonthill Lions Hall on Regional Rd. 20 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$10. children under 12, \$6, Cash bar available. Take out orders can be done. Monthly dinner continues until April, except in December. PELHAM FARMERS MARKET runs each Thursday evening market from 4:30 p.m. to dusk in the parking lot of the Pelham Municipal Building in Fonthill. The weekly sale of local produce. flowers and agricultural products continues weekly until Oct. 25. FONTHILL LEGION LUNCH each

Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 hall on Regional Rd. 20 east of downtown Fonthill. \$10 with takeout available. Main dish plus

dessert tea and onffee ART CLASSES WITH BEVERLY SNEATH Adult Classes Acrylics Monday afternoons from 12:30 n.m. to 3:30 n.m. starting Sept. 10. and Watercolour 6 p.m to 8:30 p.m. at the Studio 1341 Effingham St., Ridgeville Watercolour Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Niagara Central Hobbies 395 St. Paul St., St. Catharines Call 905-892-5868 bevsneath@yahoo.ca www.

beverlysneath.com **ALZHEIMER SOCIETY** of Niagara Region Support Groups

for Caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Rapelje Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd., Welland. For info call 905-67-3914 **ALZHEIMER SOCIETY** of Niagara Region Support Groups

for Caregivers meets the third Monday of each month, except July and August, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Alzheimer Society, 403 Ontario St. Unit 1, St. Catharines For info call 905-687-3914. **CHORUS NIAGARA** The Power

of 100. Artistic Director Robert Cooper invites singers to audition for Niagara's premier 100 voice community choir. Call Pam at 905-357-1616 for an audition appointment Further information www.chorusniagara.ca ST. CATHARINES NEWCOMERS Club invites women of all ages new to the Niagara area to join us on the first Wednesday of the

month, at the Heideh of, 600 Lake St. St. Catharines at 7.30 p.m. Call Lois at 905-988-9988 or Gwen 905-641-9816 A CAPPELLA NIAGARA MEN'S CHORUS Invites singers for fun. fellowship, and fabulous 4-part harmony every Tuesday at 7:30 PM at St. John Ambulance, 5734 Glenholme Ave. at High St. in Niagara Falls. For info call Bob-892-2336. Come and sing with us. You'll be glad you did! TAOIST TAI CHI Taoist Tai ChiTM renovate your body. Day and evening classes available. Call 905-935-7583 or visit www.taoist. ong/niagara

Around Town is a coming events service for non-profit groups in Pelham. Please make submissions by e-mail to wayne. campbell@sunmedia.ca or by fax to 905-732-3660.

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'Tip of the iceberg,' new vice-president says

ALLAN BENNER PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND - "This is the money maker." Moses Bilagot said, gesturing to two large inverters on the second floor of the new River Road Recreation Centre. It's those two fridge-sized devices that convert the sun's light collected by the solar panels into the energy sold into the electrical grid, added Bilagot, OSM

Solar's new vice-president. The solar system produces enough electricity to power about 50 homes, and is expected to generate about \$230,000 a year in additional revenue for the sports complex project - more than enough than is needed to make the project financially viable, without the need for additional tax revenue. Bilagot said.

"It will pay for the whole building, no problem," he said, adding it's become the envy of other municipalities across the province. "Officials from other cities have been

closely monitoring the project. Some have been doing drivebys to see the But Bilagot said the new company on Hansler Rd. has a lot more ideas it plans

to role out that will be just as beneficial "This is just the tip of the iceberg."

Bilagot, a professor from the University of Western Ontario's research park, said he was recruited by OSM president John Gamble to put together a team of experts to further develop plans for the company, such as Howard Elliott, who has been working as a consultant on the sports complex project.

Working with those experts, Bilagot hopes to start manufacturing new renewable energy technology at the local plant.

He said he holds 45 patents for technology, including a new battery storage system for the electricity generated by renewable energy projects, whether

they're solar or wind-powered. Another device promises to make the installation of solar panels quicker and easier. Doing so, he added, will also reduce the overall cost of solar power

At the OSM factory, we want to produce cheaper quicker installation of systems so it's good for the customer."

Bilagot said his brother Jasia Bilagot is also part of the team, bringing a few ideas of his own to the table

"He's another inventor like Howard and I," he said. And locally, he said it will mean the expansion of the current company -

and more jobs for the local community. "If we make the storage system, someone has to produce the storage system and that means more jobs at OSM," he said. "And we're using Canadian innovation for a change. We're just local

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca



Electrical consultant Howard Elliott and OSM Solar vice-president Moses Bilagot stand beside two large electrical inverters to be used to transform the sun's rays into \$230,000 in annual income for the new River Rd, recreation centre.

■ FOOD DRIVE: Volunteers needed Dec. 1

Pelham Community drive setting up

For PelhamNEWS

Things are gearing up once again for the holiday season and with this brings the Pelham Community Food Drive.

the Pelham Community Food Drive. The drive will take place on Saturday, Dec.1 starting at 9:30 am. Residents, in the urban areas of

Pelham, can put out non-perishable food on their porch, which will be picked up by one of many volunteers. If residents wish to make a monetary donation, which will go to Pelham Cares, organizers ask that cheques be

made payable to Pelham Cares and placed in a sealed envelope and given to the volunteer. For those living in the rural areas of

For those living in the rural areas of Pelham, or those residents unable to donate the day of the drive, food can be

dropped off after Dec. 1 at the following locations: Century 21 Today Realty, Clare's Cycle and Sports, Meridian Credit Union, North Pelham Avondale, Star Tile Centre, and at the Pelham Cares office.

Volunteers are needed to go door to door to collect food, as well as assist Pelham Cares, with sorting, boxing and

transporting food.
Contact Pelham Cares at 892-5300 or
Gerry Berkhout, Pelham Community
Food Drive Coordinator, at 892-6988
or galves@cogeco.ca if you wish to

volunteer.

The Pelham Cares office, located beside Sobeys on Hwy 20, will be open from 9:30 a.m., -3:30 p.m. on Dec. 1.

For more information contact Pelham Cares at 905 892-5300

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defended us at times of conflict and to the Royal Canadian Legion for continuing to keep our nation and community strong 1 800.665.3697 hm'hodak@niagara.nel vww.timhudakmpp.com 961 Kins St. F. Unit A

If you have a story idea or see news happening, we want to hear from you – pelham.news@sunmedia.ca or 905-732-2414 ext.246



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■ HOUSE TOUR: Ninth house tour for Fonthill United Church

Designers get into Christmas spirit

PelhamNEWS Staff

Local home decorators will not only help Fonthill United Church this year, they will help one of their own.

The 9th Homes for the Holidays Christmas House tour on Saturday, Nov. 17, will involve six homes and the church decorated for Christmas. Proceeds from the \$18 tickets will go for church and community projects

"Normally, we have six designers, one for each house but Ien DeHaan from Forever Flowers who normally decorates a home for us had a near tragedy recently when Rottweilers attacked her fivevear-old daughter," co-chair Carolyn van der Sluis said.

"In the true spirit of the season however, and to ensure the success of the house tour. Jen's fellow decorators have 'stepped up to the plate' and have agreed to each decorate a room in the home that was assigned to Forever Flowers. This is incredibly heartwarming

Each of these designers, she



WAYNE CAMPRELL Staff Photo

Decorators are preparing for the 9th Homes for the Holidays Christmas House tour on Saturday, Nov. 17. Some gather at Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop. From left are Stephanie Wegelin of Vermeer's, Deborah Sourwine of Cox Home Furniture, Kara Gibbs of Hometown Treasures and Decor Amour, Jackie Cornwall of Vermeers and Sandy Alexander of The Log Cabin.

said, had already agreed to give their time, talents and products to decorate a home assigned "Now they all agreed to dec-

orate a section of vet another home so as to not disappoint the people attending the house tour - six homes, as advertised, will be fully decorated

for this year's "Homes for the Holidays" Christmas house tour" The town house is Line

The six houses can be vis-

any time during the hours of 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., ticket holders can enjoy coffee, tea, cider and scones served in the church, decorated by two of designers. A Christmas bake sale table is

set up on the day.

This years decorators are: Jackie Cornwall of Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop; Deborah Sourwine of Cox Home Furniture, Sandy Alexander of The Log Cabin Gift Store, Anne Winnicki of In The Village, Tammy Palmer of Hometown Treasures, and Renita Damm-Kiers of I&I Floral Expressions along with Ben and Marion Damm of Floral Expressions Sobeys will provided plas-

tic bags for all visitors to carry their shoes in while touring the homes, Rice Road Greenhouses have donated poinsettias to decorate the church hall. Sweet Thoughts had donated a chocolate delicacy for a draw prize. Committee organizers

include van der Sluis, cochair Virginia Haun, Margaret

A PLACE TO

Kirkwood and Patrice Walker. wayne.campbell@sunmedia.ca

PARTICIPATING DECORATORS

- Jackie Cornwall. Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop, 684 South Pelham St.,
- Deborah Sourwine, Cox Home Furniture, 693 South Pelham Rd. Welland
- Sandy Alexander, The Log Cabin Gift Store, 155 Hwy 20. Fonthill Anne Winnicki, In The
- Village 304 Canboro Rd Ridgeville, Ont.
- Tammy Palmer Hometown Treasures and Decor Armour, Seaway Mall. 800 Niagara St., Welland
- Decorating the Church a partnership of: Renita Damm-Kiers, J&J Floral Expressions, 1428 Pelham St. Fonthill, and. Ben and Marion Damm. Floral Expressions, 906 Hwy 20 West, Fenwick.



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Mosquito ballplayers in provincial championship

For PelhamNEWS

Last weekend, the Pelham Panthers took part in the Mosquito "C" Division -OBA Provincial Championship in Belle

A "D" Center playing up in a "C" division Championship on the strength of a Strong Season. The Pelham Panthers traveled to Belle River to compete for a Provincial Championship. A team of just 10 players played their hearts out and came just short of winning it all. Parents and Coaches could not be more proud of

the result - a 2nd place finish! On Sunday morning the opponent was the Kincardine Cardinals in the Semi-Finals. With only 3 pitchers available for the day Alex Repar would get the nod to start the game on the mound. He would prove to be too much for the Kincardine Bats as he would hold them to just 2 runs in 5 innings work thanks largely by a big throw from the outfield by Tyler Dobbie to gun a batter down trying to hit a solo homerun that resulted in a collision at the plate with Connor Walton holding on to the ball for the out and seemingly deflating the Cardinals from that point on. Cam Crysler pitched a nice inning in relief to secure the win. The Hot bats in this one belonged to Connor Walton who scored 3 runs and Blake Bishop, Mitchell Carmichael, Max Blanchard and Alex Blanchard who all had 2 runs each in a 13-3 Panther victory.

Next was the Championship game. The opponent this time was a rematch with the unbeaten Belle River Braves. Max Blanchard started the game and pitched a nice 3 1/3 but reached his pitch count maximum. Again, the Belle River team would prove to be just too much. Cam Crysler and Zack Baltrusiunas also chipped in with decent pitching efforts

Panthers Coaching staff (Jason Campbell, Darren Bishop, Mike Repar and Glen Walton) are extremely proud of the effort these boys put out. There were only 2 games all tournament that went to extra innings and for the panthers to be in both and win them is an amazing show of the heart and determination that these boys have!

but the Braves pitchers proved to be just

a little too much as they went on to win

THE PELHAM **PANTHERS**

■ Joshua

■ Max

Campbell

Blanchard

- Alex Blanchard
- Alex Repar
- Ben Mann
- Blake Bishoo
- Mitchell ■ Cameron Crysler Carmichael
- Connor Walton ■ Tyler Dobbie

Brock swimmers host 300 at renamed meet

■ SWIMMING: Joe Kerkovhen Memorial Walker Invitational

For PelhamNFWS

Over the weekend of Oct. 27-28 more than 300+ swimmers from across southern Ontarlo and upper New York State converged on the Brock University. In the Eleanor Misener Aquatic

Centre the competed in the 35th annual "Walker" Invitational, which is now known as the Joe Kerkovben Memorial Walker Invitational Kerkovben was a founding figure of

the St. Catharines Swim Club in the 1960s, the first club for competitive swimmers in the city. He started this annual swim meet in the mid 19770's. It is a great season kick-off meet and one that hundreds of swimmers look

forward to attending each year. This year the Brock Niagara Aquatic Club took the crown, winning the overall 'Walker' Invitational Trophy.

BROCK NIAGARA

MEDALISTS 10 years and under Lea Formicuccia (Ferwick) Paje Brennan (Niagara Falls)

Ben Leighton (Virgil) 11 and 12 Bohr Deng (Niagara Falls) Chelsea Spence (St Catharines) 13 and 14 years

Millar Coveney (St Catharines) Mony Tchervenenkov (Niagara FallIs) Ming Scott (Beamsville) Ashley Spence (St Catharines)

15-plus years Kathryn Hrycusko (Fonthill) Simone Waller (Niagara Falls) Jack Harold (St Catharines)





Notice of the FirstOntario Credit Union 13th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 13th Annual General Meeting of FirstOntario Credit Union Limited will be held:

Date & Time: December 5th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

(registration begins at 6:15 p.m.) Place: Marquis Gardens

Address: 1050 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, Ontario L8W 3N6

The purpose of this meeting:

- 1 To receive the:
 - Report of the Board of Directors
 - Auditors' Report
 - Report of the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2012
 - · Report of the Loan Officer
 - Report of the Audit Committee
- 2. To appoint Auditors.
 - To receive a Report on the Election of Directors.
 - To transact any other business of an Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will be conducted in accordance with and respect of the

Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act and follow Robert's Rules of Order. Please be advised that this meeting will be open only to Members in good standing as of Monday, November 5th, 2012, Members will be required to show their FirstOntario debit card and/or other piece of identification for registration numoses

Attention Unincorporated Associations, Partnerships and Corporations: You are asked to submit a Proxy to your branch by 2:00 p.m., on December 4th, 2012, the day prior to the meeting, in order for signing

authorities to be verified

Door prizes and refreshments will be available.

Copies of the 2012 Financial Reports will be available to Members after November 22nd, 2012 in all FirstOntario branches, on our website at FirstOntarioCU.com and at the Annual General Meeting.

For further details, please visit our website at FirstOntarioCU.com.

Kathy Burtnik Corporate Secretary

FirstOntario

Today's Youth... Tomorrow's Leader

Nominations are now being accepted for the

Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards

The strength of our community lies in solid citizens.

If you know a young person, aged 6 to 17, who is involved in worthwhile community service a special person who is contributing while living with a limitation; a youth who has performed an act of heroism; or a 'good kid' who shows a commitment to making life better for others, doing more than is normally expected of someone their age – help us recognize their contribution – nominate them today!

Nominations will be accepted until November 30

Contact this newspaper or the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 905.639.8720 ext. 239

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IN SCOTT PENNER
HM R.Ph.B.Sc.PHM

Very rarely does a day go by where there isn't a question about constipation from a patient stopping by the pharmacy. Most patients want to know what they should take that is available without a prescription.

Constipation is a symptom that occurs when waste moves too slowly through the body, resulting in stool that is dry and hard. This often makes it difficult and painful to pass. Some medications such as antidepressants, water pills, and certain pain killers (such as Oxycontin and Codeine) may cause constipation.

The frequency of bowel movements varies from person to person, from as little as twice a week to a couple of times a day, and is affected by diet, medications, and

If you are having trouble going to the washroom, the first thing a pharmacist will usually recommend is increasing the amount of fibre in the diet by eating whole grains, fruits and vegetables. In addition, drinking at least 8 glasses of water will minimize constitution.

If these suggestions do not work, there are several options available to you,

For short-term treatment of constipation, (if you haven't been to the washroom in several days), a saline laxatifive such as Milk of Magnesia can be tried. Alternatively glycerin suppositories work quite well. If symptoms still do not resolve you could consider an enema with the advice of your orbiscian.

Stimulant lawatives such as Dulcolax and Senokot can also be used to maintain regularity, if you are on long term narcotic therapy you may need to take these types of medications as long as you are taking the narcotics.

For long-term treatment of constipation, bulk-forming agents such as Metamucil or Prodeim Plain can be used. These bulk-forming agents increase the stow bulkallowing the stool to pass through the body faster and cause more frequent bowel movements. These agents typically stake about 12-72 hours to take effect and usually safe to use for long periods of time. When taking bulk-forming agents, it is recommended to drink ides of titud.

For young children there are a few options. For immediate relief a pediatric glycerin suppository can be tried. For chronic long term management PEG 3350 is often prescribed, or is available over-the-counter as LXA-Bay. You should consult your family doctor however if you want to try an oral medication for a child suffering from chronic constituent.

If you are not having trouble going to the washroom, but you find the stool to be too hard and painful to pass, the pharmacist may recommend a stool softener such as Colace (docusate sodium) that will soften the stool for increased comfort.

Before deciding on a therapy, talk to a pharmacist and they can help you decide on a treatment that is right for you.

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Commission cautioned about 'illusions of grandeur'

MARYANNE FIRTH Tribune Staff

Bruce MacRitchie's departure from Niagara Central Airport has left stakeholders wondering what the future holds for the facility

About 15 people attended last week's airport commission meeting - many to show support for the president of Welland Aero Center and express what his absence will mean

Following months of negotiations to develop a new lease, MacRitchie could not bring himself to sign an agreement with the Niagara Central Airport commission

Instead, he has pulled his flight training school out of the airport's main hangar after more than 30 years of business. MacRitchie has since moved his equipment into his privately-owned hangar on the airport property.

Longtime airport customer Dennis Bradley said it's MacRitchie's efforts that have made the Pelham airport what it is today. Without those efforts, he believes

the airport will flounder "It's almost like an entrepreneur

ship. You need pride of ownership to make it work," he said Bradley cautioned the commission against having "illusions of grandeur" for the facility, as many

small airports make just enough to "scrape by, "(MacRitchie) was and is Welland

airport," Bradley said, feeling it will be detrimental to see the flight school operator leave the airport

Cornell Feenstra had concerns about how fuel will be dispensed and planes moved throughout the hangars without MacRitchie's

He also questioned who will oversee the airport's communications system and provide valuable information on wind speeds and outdoor conditions.

Fueling will continue on as it has, airport manager David Devine said in response, and radio operations will continue but on limited hours.

In wake of the news that MacRitchie has declined to sign the commission's agreement, the commission has not had time to prepare a proper response with its next course of action, said Pelham Ward 1 town councillor and commission member Richard Rybiak

Though the commission could not provide immediate response to the raised concerns, he assured the small crowd a response will be prepared and released over the next few days.

"Our aim is to keep the airport open, to keep it functioning and to make sure it continues to be a place people want to come," said commission chair Barbara Butters. The commission also aims to maintain fiscal responsibility to the

taxpayers of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet, whose dollars fund the facility.

Longtime airport maintenance worker Adrian Verburg said the air-

port has long operated on a "shoestring budget

He credited the commission for looking toward the future and examining alternative sources of Twitter: @mfirthTribune

revenue to help keep the facility

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca



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Contract term a deal-breaker for Welland Aero Center owner

ALLAN BENNER Tribune Staff

There was no business there

Now, after 33 years of manag-

ing the airport and building his

airport in late 1979

at all," he said.

and equipment from the main hangar into MacRitchie's privately-owned hangar on airport Bruce MacRitchie recalled finding an empty shell of a

MacRitchie said he tried to building when he first arrived work with the Niagara Central at the Welland-Port Colborne Airport commission to develop a new lease and continue operating his business there. But after months of negotiations,

sign the 31-page agreement.
The Welland Aero Center business, MacRitchie is leaving the airport's main hangar and owner said the commission. comprising municipal counoffices behind - just the way he found them decades before. cillors from tax-supporting Last week, family, friends communities, was under the and supporters were at the impression that he has never airport, helping move decades paid rent for the space he used

you slice it. I pay a large amount Although MacRitchie recoups some of his costs through fueling planes and other maintenance, "that's he could not bring himself to peanuts in comparison to what

I pay out to keep that airport open. Nevertheless, he said he was willing to work with the airport commission to reach an

He said the commission wanted lease payments of about \$3,000 a month plus utili-

"That's not true," he said. for a building with no munici-"I kept the airport open 3,600 pal services such as water and hours a year. No matter how

MacRitchie said he can lease a building of the same size in larger more advanced airports

for substantially less. He said the commission eventually offered him "a sweetheart deal," with reduced lease payments.

"Under duress, I agreed financially to take it on - until I got the lease agreement." Its two-year contract term was the most significant deal-

MacRitchie said uncertainty about the future of his business customers and flight school students, reluctant to enrol in a program not knowing whether or not they'd be able to com-

plete their training. Airport commissioner Barb Butters said she can't discuss specific terms of the contract. But she was surprised and disappointed that it fell

"We were trying to accommodate the things he was asking for," Butters said. "I don't know what the deal-breaker was. I thought when we shook hands, we had the basis of the agreement"

through

Although MacRitchie will allan.benner@sunmedia.ca

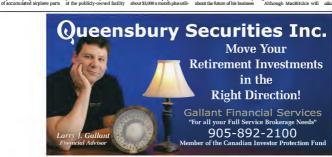
the main hangar, he intends to continue running his business

 though on a smaller scale. Tve been maintaining some of these people's airplanes for 40 years. I can't walk away. I

know I should, but I really want to keep it together." Tara Wiley, for instance, has worked for MacRitchie since

starting as a co-operative education student 19 years ago. "She's just like having a daughter," MacRitchie said, adding she's one of three people he hopes to continue to

employ out of a staff of seven.



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Painting an online way to manage home renos





home years earlier.

or where he bought it.

With that came the

thought: Why not find a way

to access things like paint

colour information, and

provide a website to link the OMI Agency Niagara trades and their products and services directly with PELHAM - For Chris homeowners. Baxter, it's an online venture

"I knew there was a need with its heart in the home for this, so we did it," said and whose foundations Baxter, who has been in a family paint business for 25 were laid early this year. That's when he found vears.

himself unable to help a Earlier this year, Baxter, 38, and Rob Berry develcustomer at Fonthill Paint and Decorating find the oped ColourBook, which same colour paint the homwent live last week. Its prieowner used to decorate his mary function is as a tool for trades and renovations The man couldn't preprofessionals to better track cisely remember what it was their customers and the needs of each home.

It also serves as a comprehensive database of home renovation materials and services in the province.

"This is really about bringing everything under one roof," Baxter said. adding the free www. colourbook.ca site links renovations and colour schemes as a permanent record attached to each

address "The way we think of it, Facebook gets into lives and minds," he said. "ColourBook gets into the home. And we've created a home-based fact sheet, so trades (associated with the homes) now stay with that house

"This helps you with the paints, flooring, roofing shingles, siding, you name it." he said.

Tradespeople and companies in ColourBook can also log in information and send it to customers.

What it also means is tradespeople can boost the value of their business by having their clients and the work they've done for them tracked in a verifiable way.

Among other site highlights is the use of a ColourSheet, listing items such as appropriate flooring styles and paint colours and managing them as a portfolio.

Baxter said the Pelham company is located at the paint store on Hwy. 20, but is a separate entity. It has 10 permanent workers.



Chris Baxter shows off his ColourBook website for trades people and homeowners.

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